

Weapons and warriors of the Plains Indians

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The Plains Indians very often had to fight wars. Sometimes, with other tribes and sometimes with the white settlers. The Indians men were called Braves and every young boy wanted to be a warrior and become a Brave.

There were many reasons for the Indians of the Plains to have a war. It could be for revenge, to gain land, to gain horses or even to gain a wife.

The Plains Indians were very brave and strong, but they were also clever. When planning a battle they would always try and surprise their enemy and attack when the enemy was not expecting them. This meant that out of the 20 or 30 Braves who went to fight only one or two were killed.

The women did not go to fight they stayed at home to look after the children and the wounded Braves.

One of the ways the men would prove how brave they were was to scalp one of their enemies. This was a horrible event. The Indian would lift up the head of a man by his hair and using a very sharp knife cut off the top of his head. The scalp was a prized trophy for the Brave. The very thought of being scalped scared the white people and made many think the Plains Indians were savage and should be killed.

Questions

Match the head to the tail

The Indian men were called

fight wars

Every young boy wanted to

braves

The Plains Indians often had to

be a warrior

Name the 4 reasons the Indians of the Plains went to war?

Copy out this passage and fill in the missing words

The Plains Indians used to _____ their enemies. This was to show how _____ they were. To _____ a man the Indian would use a very _____ and cut off the top of his _____

The _____ was a prized trophy. Many white _____ were very scared. Many people thought the Plains Indians were _____ and should be _____.

Choose from these words

blunt knife scalp ear nose head people savage brave helped

killed attacked

